

NOTE

The synonymy of *Gerris comatus comatus*  
Drake and Hottes and  
*Gerris comatus mickeli* Drake and Hottes  
(Heteroptera: Gerridae)

Drake and Hottes (1925. Ohio Journal of Science 25: 48) described *Gerris* (*Gerris*) *comatus* from Estes Park, Colorado (holotype, macropterous male, USNM) and in the same year they described *Gerris comatus* var. *mickeli* (1925. Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 38: 72) from Rochester, Minnesota (holotype, brachypterous female, USNM). Varieties proposed before 1961 have standing as subspecies unless specifically noted otherwise, thus the variety *mickeli* must be considered to be a valid species group name.

Drake and Hottes proposed this variety based on brachypterous females with a rufous stripe on the lateral margin of the anterior pronotal lobe, which is lacking in all males and macropterous females seen to date. In brachypterous females examined the venter is also usually much lighter than in macropters. Drake and Harris (1928. Ohio Journal of Science 28: 269-278) later found brachypterous females of this variety in Oregon and Colorado, and pointed out that males and macropterous females of *mickeli* were unknown.

In series from Colorado (Chaffee Co., Mt. Princeton Hot Spgs., CL 486, VI-27-1970, JTP) and New Mexico (Sandoval Co., Regina, CL 266, VIII-25-1963, JTP) both varieties are present, thus these cannot be held as subspecies, and should not even be con-

sidered as varieties as they are simply morphs occurring in single breeding populations. *Gerris comatus mickeli* Drake and Hottes 1925 is therefore synonymized with *Gerris comatus* Drake and Hottes 1925, **New Synonymy.**

Biggam and Stock (1988. Pan-Pacific Entomologist 64: 359-363) showed that a very similar phenomenon occurs in *Gerris incurvatus* Drake & Hottes, where brachypterous early season (July) females often have a rufous stripe on the anterolateral pronotal margins, and occasionally macropterous females and males possess it also. In their investigations they failed to find either brachypters or striped specimens later in the season (August), thus they consider the striped morph to be seasonal. Electrophoretic comparisons with the closely related *Gerris buenoi* Kirkaldy showed that all wing morphs and color forms of *Gerris incurvatus* indeed belonged to a single species. The late season series of *Gerris comatus* from Regina, New Mexico containing both color forms and wing morphs indicates that in this species seasonality is not a determining factor.

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